
MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic Four
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"IF THIS BE DOOMSDAY!"

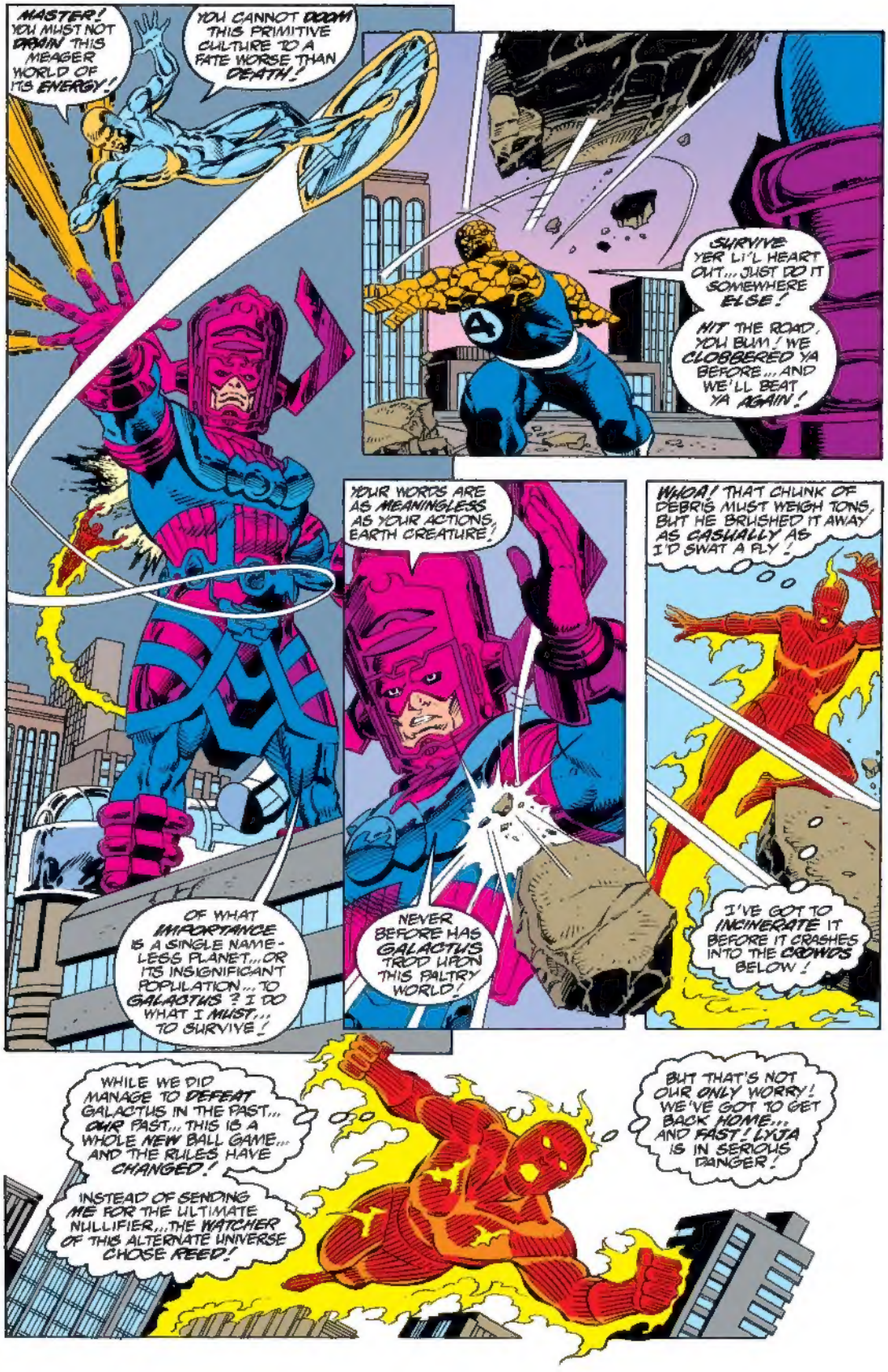
BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE RICHARDS, INVISIBLE WOMAN! JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS...

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

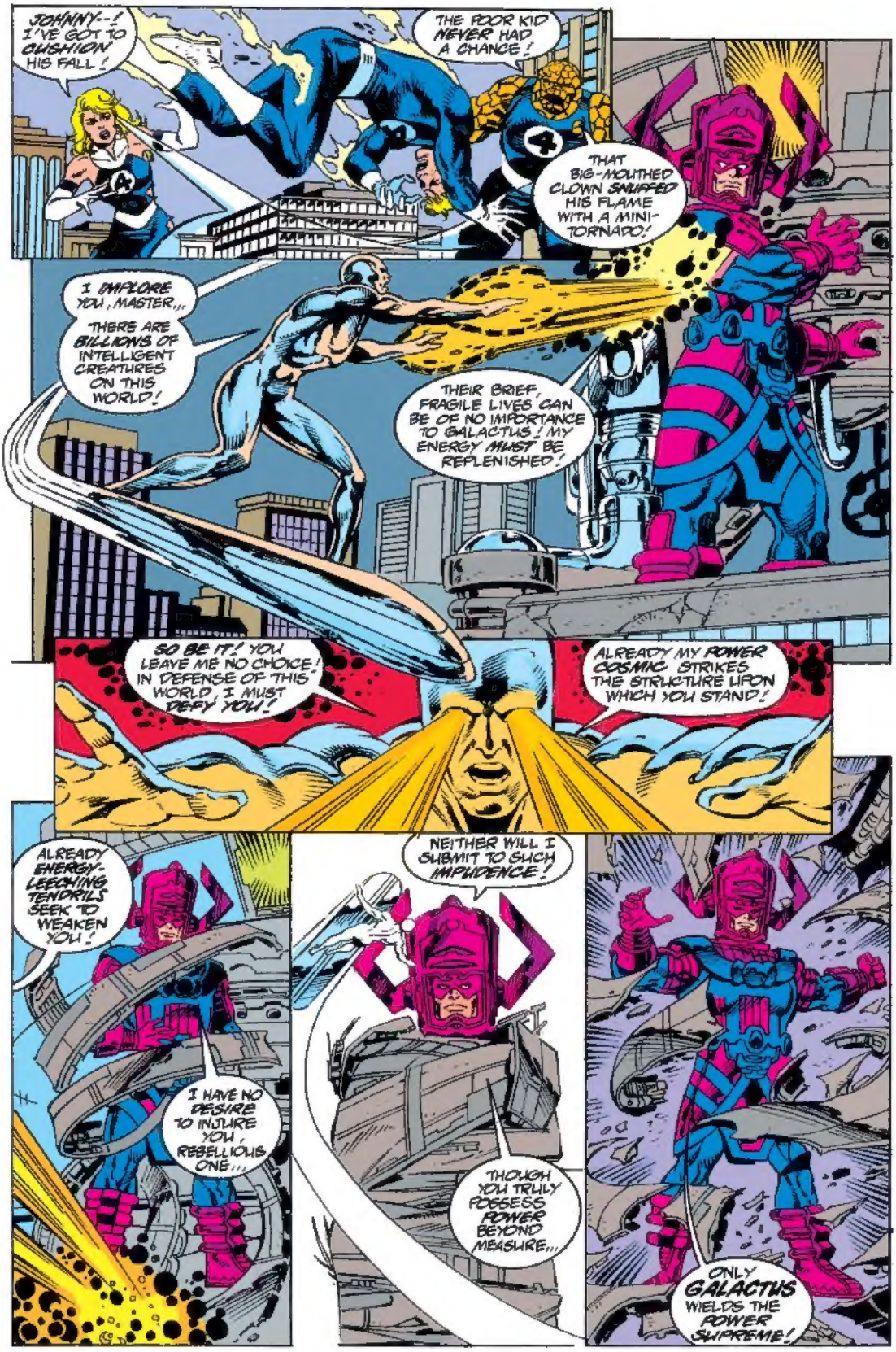

EVER SINCE THEIR EARLIEST ADVENTURES, THEY HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY HAILED AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-TEAM!
BUT RECENTLY, A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SERIES OF PERSONAL TRAGEDIES--
--INCLUDING THE DEVASTATING LOSS OF THEIR LEADER, REED RICHARDS--
--HAVE SEVERELY SAPPED THEIR FIGHTING STRENGTH!
PLUCKED FROM THEIR OWN REALITY, THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE, TO A PARALLEL WORLD, WHERE THEY NOW FACE THEIR ULTIMATE TEST!

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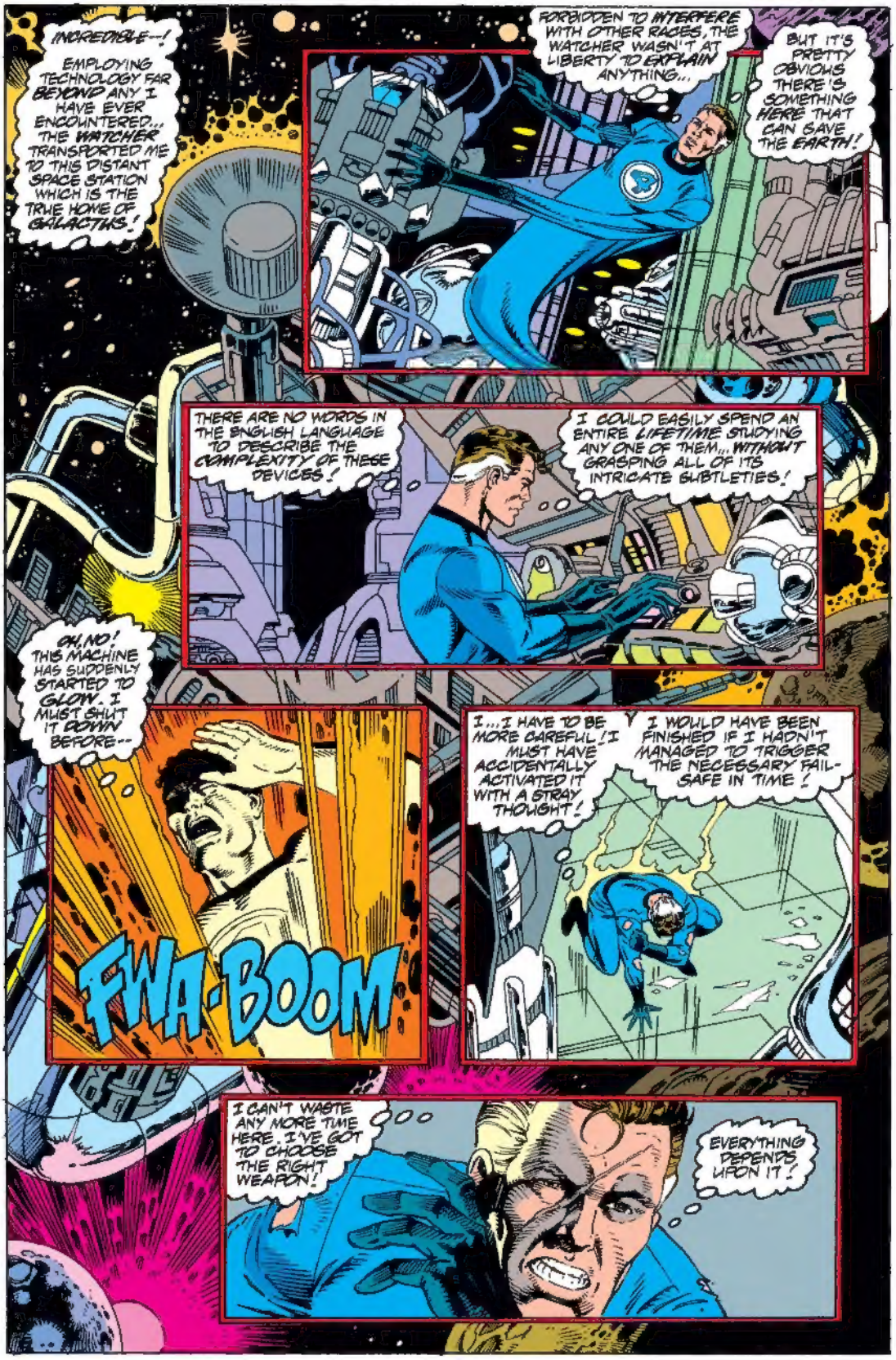

IF DEATH BE OUR DESTINY..!
ONCE AGAIN... THE AWESOME GALACTUS HAS CHOSEN EARTH TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE ENERGY HE NEEDS TO SUSTAIN HIMSELF!
ONCE MORE... THE FANTASTIC FOUR MUST RELY ON THE AID OF HIS FORMER HERALD, THE STARTLING SILVER SURFER!
TOM DEFALCO & PAUL RYAN WORDS, PLOT & PICTURES
DAN GHILANDI INKS
STEVE DUTRO LETTERS
JOHN KALISZ COLORS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
BUT, THOUGH THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE, THOUGH IT IS A RE-PLAY OF THEIR GREATEST VICTORY, THIS BATTLE IS ALSO OCCURRING IN THIS PARTICULAR TIMELINE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME--
--AND IS FATED TO HAVE A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT ENDING!

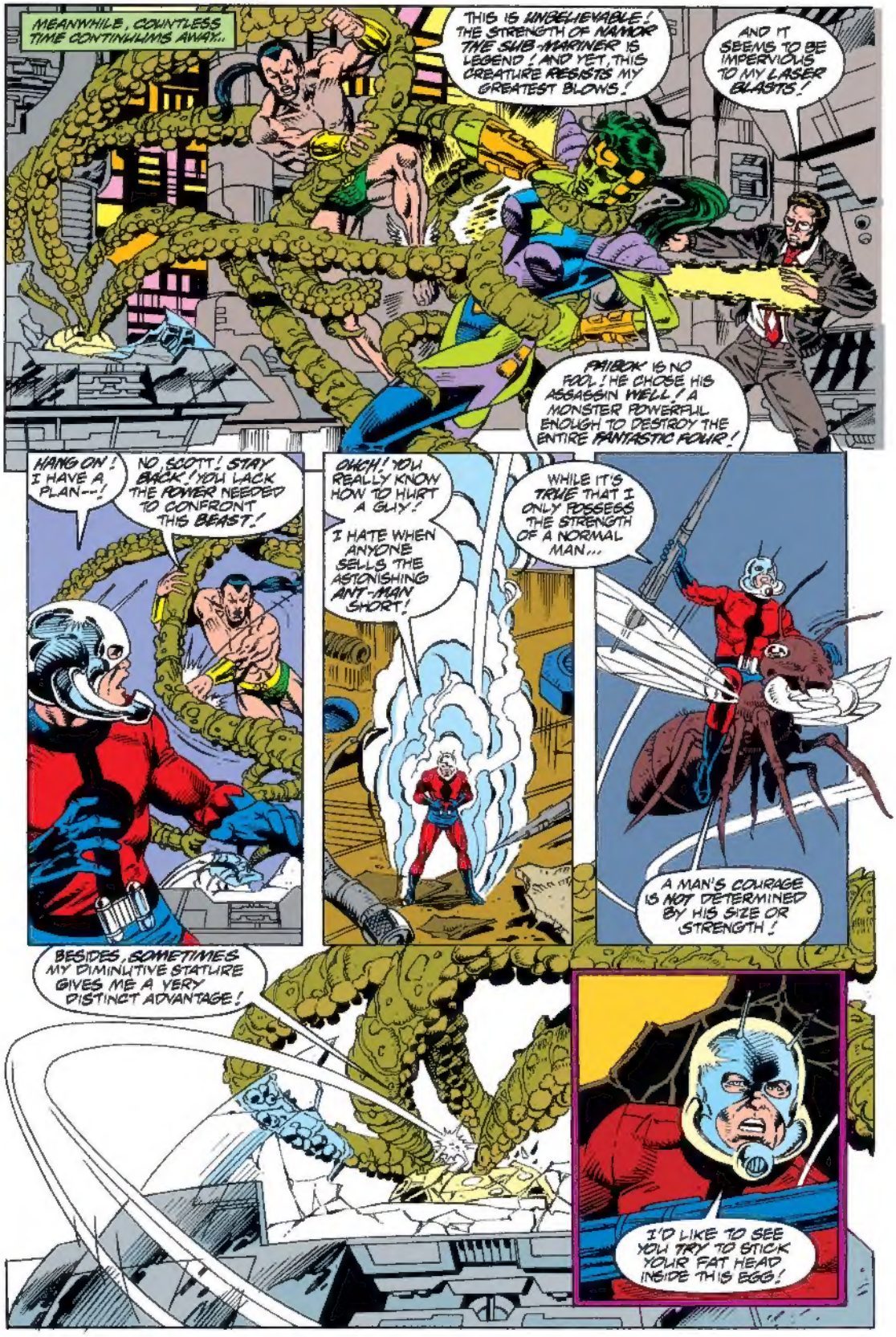

MASTER! YOU MUST NOT DRAIN THIS MEAGER WORLD OF ITS ENERGY!
YOU CANNOT DOOM THIS PRIMITIVE CULTURE TO A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!
SURVIVE YER LI'L HEART OUT... JUST DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!
HIT THE ROAD, YOU BUM! WE CLOBBERED YA BEFORE... AND WE'LL BEAT YA AGAIN!
OF WHAT IMPORTANCE IS A SINGLE NAMELESS PLANET... OR ITS INSIGNIFICANT POPULATION... TO GALACTUS? I DO WHAT I MUST... TO SURVIVE!
YOUR WORDS ARE AS MEANINGLESS AS YOUR ACTIONS, EARTH CREATURE!
NEVER BEFORE HAS GALACTUS TROD UPON THIS FALTRY WORLD!
WHOA! THAT CHUNK OF DEBRIS MUST WEIGH TONS, BUT HE BRUSHED IT AWAY AS CASUALLY AS I'D SWAT A FLY!
I'VE GOT TO INCINERATE IT BEFORE IT CRASHES INTO THE CROWDS BELOW!
WHILE WE DID MANAGE TO DEFEAT GALACTUS IN THE PAST... OUR PAST... THIS IS A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME... AND THE RULES HAVE CHANGED!
INSTEAD OF SENDING ME FOR THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER... THE WATCHER OF THIS ALTERNATE UNIVERSE CHOSE REED!
BUT THAT'S NOT OUR ONLY WORRY! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK HOME... AND FAST! LYJA IS IN SERIOUS DANGER!

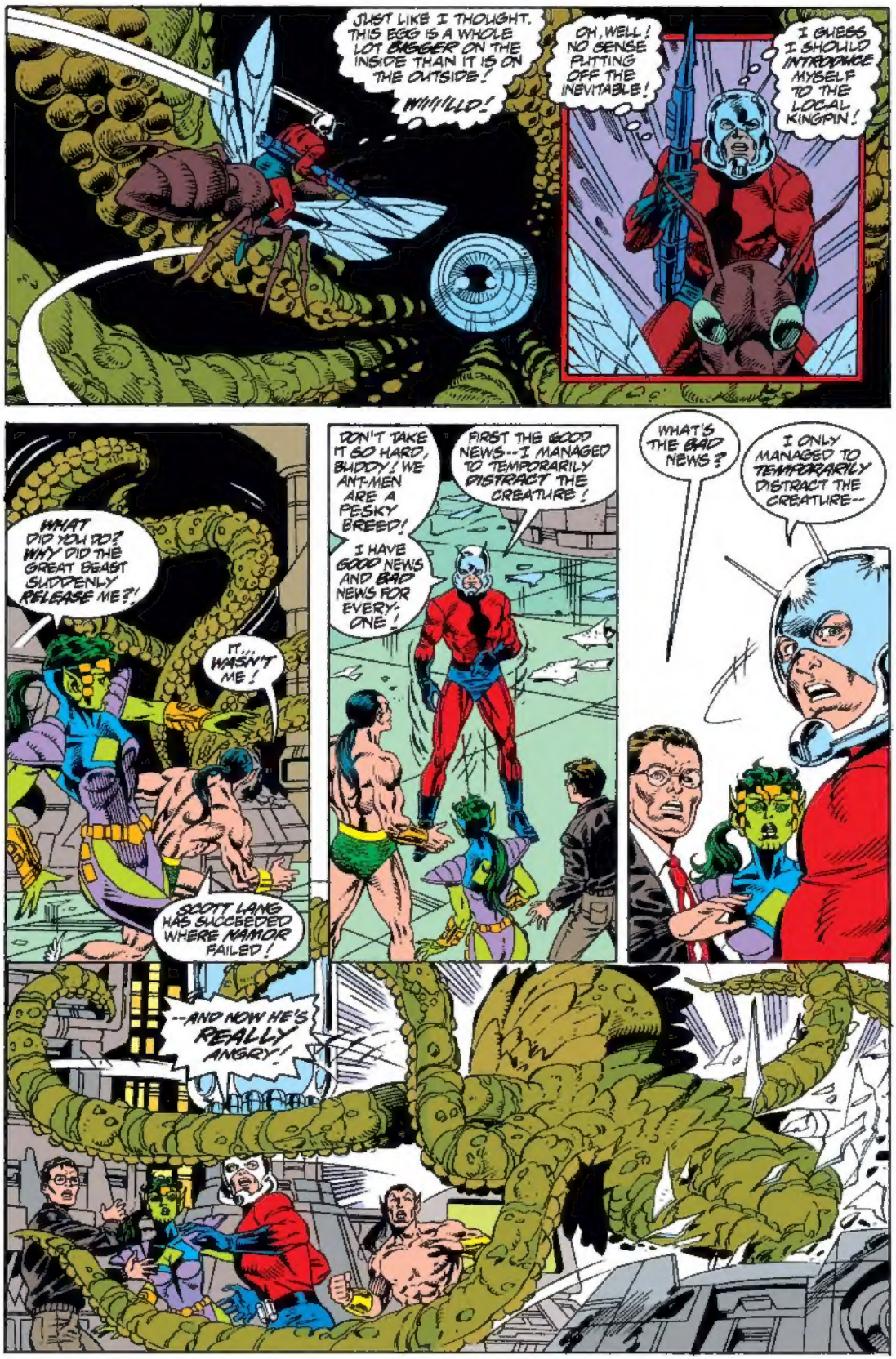

MEANWHILE, BACK ON OUR PLANE OF REALITY...
TWO STARTLED FIGURES SUDDENLY MATERIALIZE AMID FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS!
WHAT WIZARDRY IS THIS?!
ANT-MAN! WE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS... BUT WHERE ARE SUSAN AND THE THING?
SOMETHING TELLS ME WE WON'T BE CRAZY ABOUT THE ANSWER, NAMOR ... WHATEVER IT IS!
AAAAY
MOVE IT, MISTER! THAT WAS LYJA... AND HER SCREAM CAME FROM THE NURSERY!
IS IT ANY WONDER... LOOK!
OH/MIGOSH! THESE MONSTROUS TENTACLES SEEM TO BE ERUPTING FROM JOHNNY AND LYJA'S EGG... BUT HOW... HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

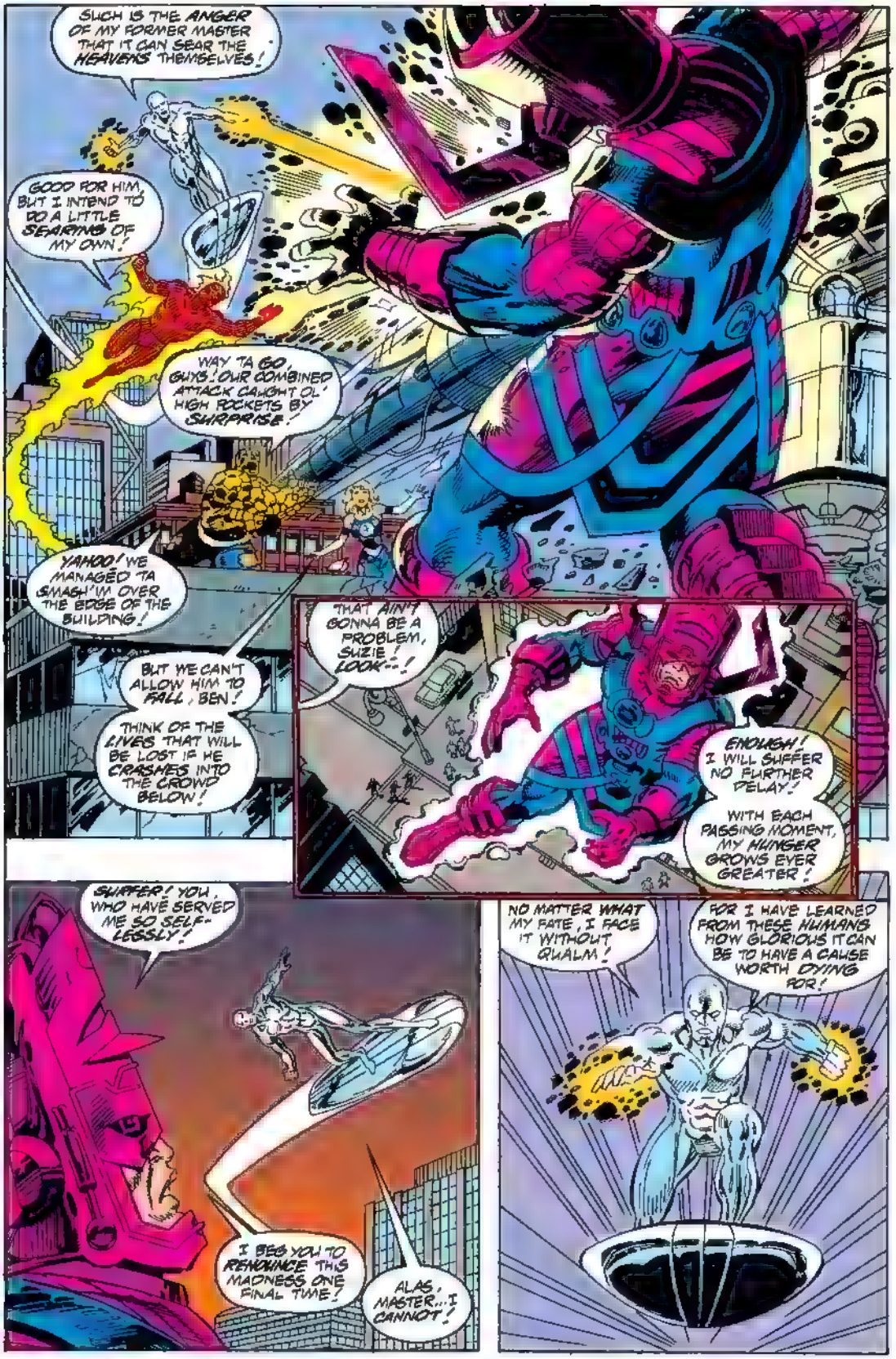

JOHNNY--! I'VE GOT TO CUSHION HIS FALL!
THE POOR KID NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
THAT BIG-MOUTHED CLOWN SNUFFED HIS FLAME WITH A MINI-TORNADO!
I IMPLORE YOU, MASTER... THERE ARE BILLIONS OF INTELLIGENT CREATURES ON THIS WORLD!
THEIR BRIEF, FRAGILE LIVES CAN BE OF NO IMPORTANCE TO GALACTUS! MY ENERGY MUST BE REPLENISHED!
SO BE IT! YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! IN DEFENSE OF THIS WORLD, I MUST DEFY YOU!
ALREADY MY POWER COSMIC STRIKES THE STRUCTURE UPON WHICH YOU STAND!
ALREADY ENERGY-LEECHING TENDRILS SEEK TO WEAKEN YOU!
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO INJURE YOU, REBELLIOUS ONE...
NEITHER WILL I SUBMIT TO SUCH IMPUDENCE!
THOUGH YOU TRULY POSSESS POWER BEYOND MEASURE...
ONLY GALACTUS WIELDS THE POWER SUPREME!


HURRY! ONLY MY FORCE FIELD CAN SHIELD YOU FROM THAT EXPLODING DEBRIS!
LOOK! THE SURFER HASN'T GIVEN UP! HE'S ZOOMING IN FOR ANOTHER PASS!
LET US OUTTA HERE, SUZIE! MAYBE WE CAN HELP!
FORGET IT, PAL. HE'S FLYING SOLO!
THOUGH THIS CIVILIZATION IS STILL TORN BY SUCH BACKWARD CONCEPTS AS WAR AND PREJUDICE...
IT IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY!
WHO KNOWS WHAT HEIGHTS, WHAT GLORIES MANKIND CAN ACHIEVE IF IT IS ALLOWED TO ENDURE?
WOULD YOU PLACE THE POTENTIAL OF THIS PITIFUL RACE ... ABOVE MY NEED?
THIS PLANET HOLDS THE PRECIOUS ENERGY I REQUIRE!
ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ARE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE!
I DON'T GET IT! WHY IS THAT BIG CREEP SHOWIN' OFF WITH HIS WACKY ENERGY BALL?
HE OBVIOUSLY MEANS TO USE IT AGAINST THE SURFER!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! WE'LL ATTACK WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED!
WE'VE GOT TO PREVENT HIM FROM ACTIVATING HIS ENERGY CONVERTER BEFORE THE REED OF THIS WORLD CAN RETURN!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, SIS!
WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S KEEPING HIM?


INCREDIBLE--! EMPLOYING TECHNOLOGY FAR BEYOND ANY I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED... THE WATCHER TRANSPORTED ME TO THIS DISTANT SPACE STATION WHICH IS THE TRUE HOME OF GALACTUS!
FORBIDDEN TO INTERFERE WITH OTHER RACES, THE WATCHER WASN'T AT LIBERTY TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING...
BUT IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT CAN SAVE THE EARTH!
THERE ARE NO WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THE COMPLEXITY OF THESE DEVICES!
I COULD EASILY SPEND AN ENTIRE LIFETIME STUDYING ANY ONE OF THEM... WITHOUT GRASPING ALL OF ITS INTRICATE SUBTLETIES!
OH, NO! THIS MACHINE HAS SUDDENLY STARTED TO GLOW. I MUST SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE--
FWA-BOOM
I...I HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL! I MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY ACTIVATED IT WITH A STRAY THOUGHT!
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINISHED IF I HADN'T MANAGED TO TRIGGER THE NECESSARY FAIL-SAFE IN TIME!
I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE. I'VE GOT TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WEAPON!
EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON IT!


MEANWHILE, COUNTLESS TIME CONTINUUMS AWAY...
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! THE STRENGTH OF NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER IS LEGEND! AND YET, THIS CREATURE RESISTS MY GREATEST BLOWS!
AND IT SEEMS TO BE IMPERVIOUS TO MY LASER BLASTS!
PAIBOK IS NO FOOL! HE CHOSE HIS ASSASSIN WELL! A MONSTER POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE FANTASTIC FOUR!
HANG ON! I HAVE A PLAN---!
NO, SCOTT! STAY BACK! YOU LACK THE POWER NEEDED TO CONFRONT THIS BEAST!
OUCH! YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO HURT A GUY!
I HATE WHEN ANYONE SELLS THE ASTONISHING ANT-MAN SHORT!
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT I ONLY POSSESS THE STRENGTH OF A NORMAL MAN...
A MAN'S COURAGE IS NOT DETERMINED BY HIS SIZE OR STRENGTH!
BESIDES, SOMETIMES MY DIMINUTIVE STATURE GIVES ME A VERY DISTINCT ADVANTAGE!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY TO STICK YOUR FAT HEAD INSIDE THIS EGG!


JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. THIS EGG IS A WHOLE LOT BIGGER ON THE INSIDE THAN IT IS ON THE OUTSIDE!
WIIIILD!
OH, WELL! NO SENSE PUTTING OFF THE INEVITABLE!
I GUESS I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF TO THE LOCAL KINGPIN!
WHAT DID YOU DO? WHY DID THE GREAT BEAST SUDDENLY RELEASE ME?!
IT...WASN'T ME!
SCOTT LANG HAS SUCCEEDED WHERE NAMOR FAILED!
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, BUDDY! WE ANT-MEN ARE A PESKY BREED!
I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR EVERY-ONE!
FIRST THE GOOD NEWS--I MANAGED TO TEMPORARILY DISTRACT THE CREATURE!
WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?
I ONLY MANAGED TO TEMPORARILY DISTRACT THE CREATURE--
--AND NOW HE'S REALLY ANGRY!

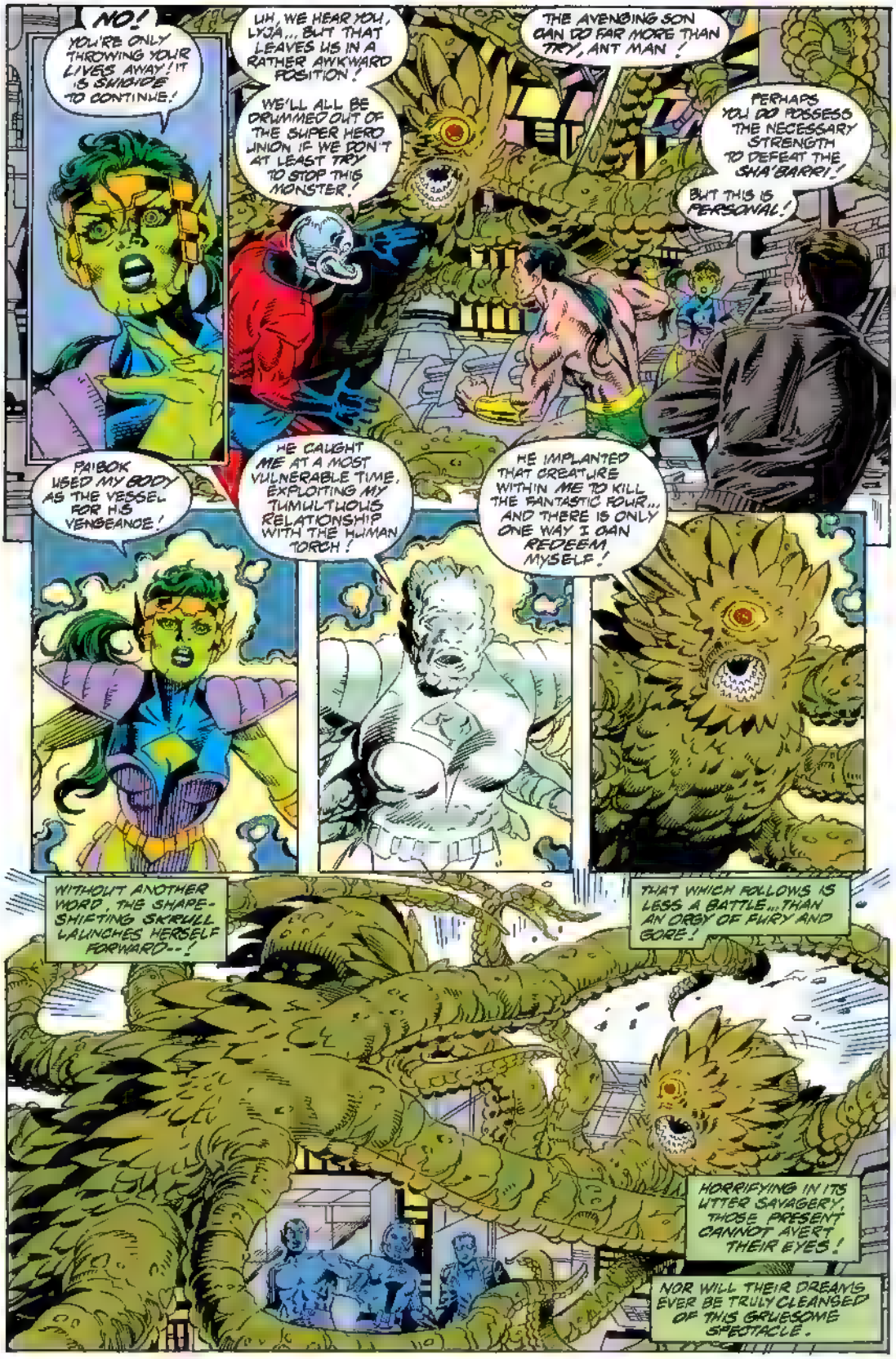

SUCH IS THE ANGER OF MY FORMER MASTER THAT IT CAN SEAR THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES!
GOOD FOR HIM, BUT I INTEND TO DO A LITTLE SEARING OF MY OWN!
WAY TA GO, GUYS! OUR COMBINED ATTACK CAUGHT OL' HIGH ROCKETS BY SURPRISE!
YAHOO! WE MANAGED TA SMASH 'IM OVER THE EDGE OF THE BUILDING!
BUT WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO FALL, BEN!
THINK OF THE LIVES THAT WILL BE LOST IF HE CRASHES INTO THE CROWD BELOW!
THAT AIN'T GONNA BE A PROBLEM, SUZIE! LOOK--!
ENOUGH! I WILL SUFFER NO FURTHER DELAY!
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, MY HUNGER GROWS EVER GREATER!
SURFER! YOU, WHO HAVE SERVED ME SO SELFLESSLY!
I BEG YOU TO RENOUNCE THIS MADNESS ONE FINAL TIME!
ALAS, MASTER... I CANNOT!
NO MATTER WHAT MY FATE, I FACE IT WITHOUT QUALM!
FOR I HAVE LEARNED FROM THESE HUMANS HOW GLORIOUS IT CAN BE TO HAVE A CAUSE WORTH DYING FOR!


SO BE IT! I TRULY REGRET WHAT MUST BE DONE... BUT YOU BROUGHT IT UPON YOURSELF!
THIS...THIS ISN'T THE WAY IT HAPPENED ON OUR WORLD!
IT SURE AIN'T!
BUT NOBODY GUARANTEED IT WOULD BE!
IT WAS NOT MY WISH TO SLAY MY FAITHFUL HERALD! IN TRUTH, THERE IS NONE I HAVE EVER CHERISHED MORE!
BUT I COULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO DETER ME! MY LIFE'S ENERGY MUST BE CONSTANTLY REPLENISHED!
SURVIVE, I MUST! SURVIVE, I WILL!
LOOK OUT! HE'S RELEASING SOME KIND OF COSMIC MAELSTROM!
WE'RE SO OUT-MATCHED! THE ONLY REAL HOPE IS THE WEAPON THE WATCHER SENT REED FOR!
WHERE IS HE? WHAT CAN EXPLAIN THIS DELAY WHILE WE FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES?
QUICK! SOMEBODY GET 'IM AN ANTACID --AN' YA'D BETTER MAKE IT A DOUBLE!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES, BEN!
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO GET DOWNSTAIRS BEFORE WE'RE INADVERTENTLY BLOWN OFF THE ROOF!

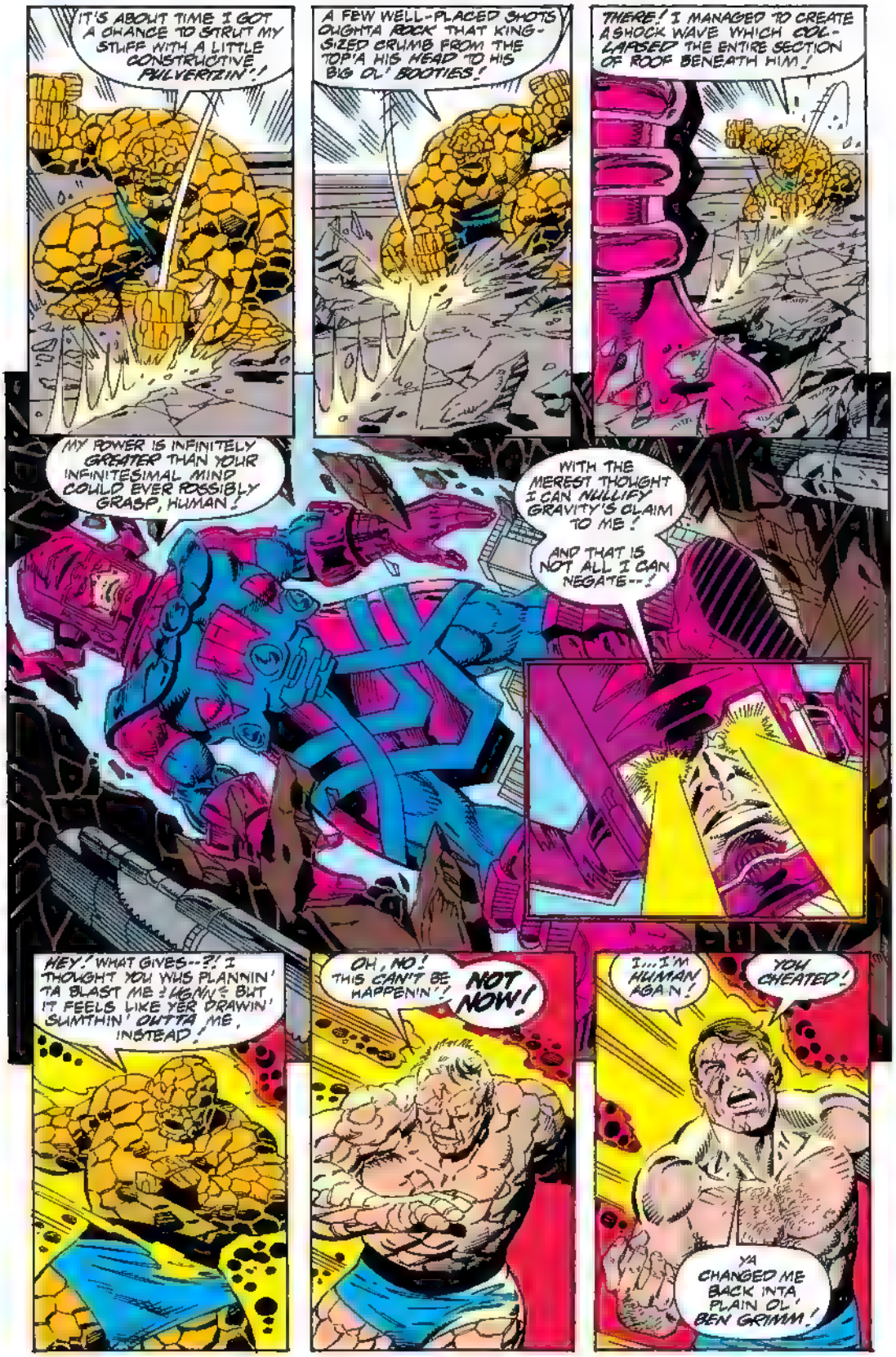

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE PRESENT, AT THE AMUSEMENT PIER IN SEASIDE HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY...
I HOPE THAT MY UNEXPECTED VISIT HASN'T COME AT AN INCONVENIENT TIME...
THE WAKANDAN AMBASSADOR RECENTLY VACATIONED IN THE AREA. HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF A MOST INTRIGUING CIRCUS ACT FIRED MY CURIOSITY.
I MUST CONFESS THAT I AM SURPRISED TO FIND THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE INHUMANS IN A COMMON FREAK SHOW!
THIS JOB PROVIDES US WITH A GOOD COVER, ALLOWING US TO HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT WHILE HERE ON EARTH!
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, T'CHALLA... BUT WHY HAVE YOU JOURNEYED SO FAR FROM YOUR OWN AFRICAN KINGDOM?
I HAVE COME TO SEE THE FANTASTIC FOUR! THIS YOUNG MAN RECENTLY BA NED SOME RATHER AMAZING POWERS, AND--
AND THE BLACK PANTHER BELIEVES THAT HIS OLD FRIENDS CAN HELP ME TO ADJUST TO THEM. I HAVE DOUBTS.
A QUICK GLANCE PASSES BETWEEN BLACK BOLT AND MEDUSA, A GLANCE LADEN WITH MORE CONTENT THAN MOST HOUR-LONG CONVERSATIONS...
MY HUSBAND JUST HAD A SUDDEN INSPIRATION, T'CHALLA.
HE WONDERS IF WE COULD IMPOSE UPON YOUR KINDNESS...
AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, WE ARE PRESENTLY HOSTING A YOUNG INHUMAN FROM ATTILAN.
PERHAPS, HE MIGHT ALSO BENEFIT FROM SIMILAR INSTRUCTION.
SAY NO MORE! IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO BRING HIM ALONG!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, VIBRAXAS.
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY CHARGE HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT SIMPLE ETIQUETTE... AS WELL AS THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH POWER MUST BRING!
I MUST PROTEST, MY LORD. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RIDING IN THE SAME CRAFT AS THAT--
BE SILENT, VIBRAXAS! YOU ONLY EMBARRASS YOURSELF--AND ME--WITH YOUR LACK OF COURTESY!
EVERY LIVING BEING, NO MATTER HIS APPEARANCE, PERSONALITY, RACE OR CREED, HAS A RIGHT TO RESPECT, AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE HOPE!

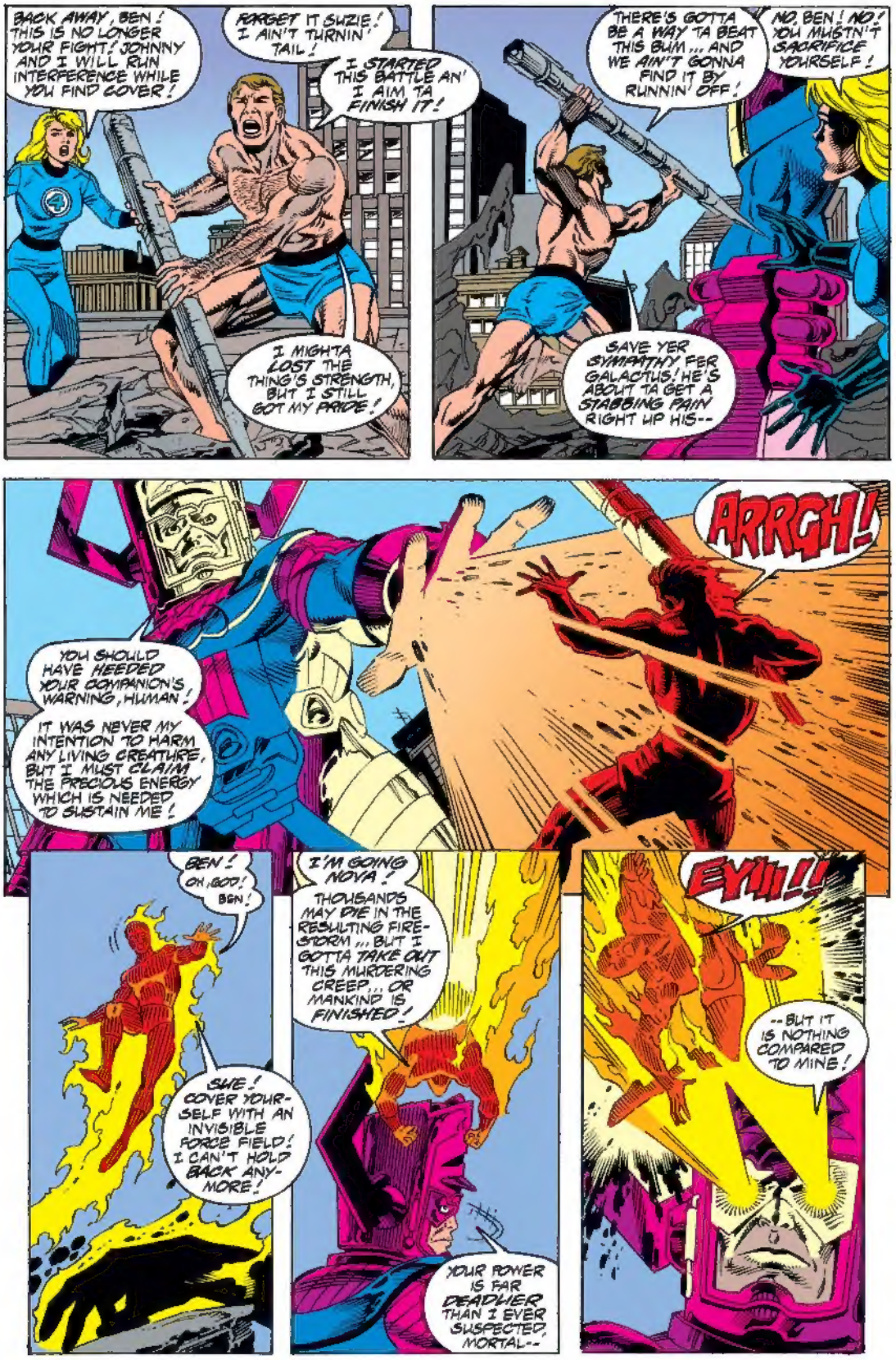

IT'S HOPELESS! WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE! WE NEVER DID!
I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER FOR THIS MISSION! I DIDN'T WANT ANY PART OF IT!
YA GOTTA FIND A WAY TA TOUGH IT OUT, KID!
NOBODY'S GETTIN' OFF THIS RIDE 'TIL IT'S OVER!
YOU MUST NOT SURRENDER TO DESPAIR, JOHNNY STORM!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE FAMED THROUGH THE KNOWN UNIVERSE FOR YOUR ABILITY TO TRIUMPH OVER SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS!
HEY! ARE YOU OUR WATCHER ...OR THE LOCAL BALDY?!
DOES IT TRULY MATTER?
YOU GOTTA HELP US, MISTER-- AND DON'T GIVE ME ANY BULL ABOUT HOW YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO INTERFERE WITH OTHER RACES!
YOU BLEW YOUR OATH BY BRINGING US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO FULLY EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS! NOT YET!
SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE THREAT TO ALL OF MANKIND IS SO GREAT THAT I HAVE BEEN SPURRED INTO ACTIVITY...BUT I CAN DO NO MORE AT THIS TIME!
DON'T LEAVE US HERE! IT ISN'T FAIR!
THIS ISN'T OUR WORLD! IT'S NOT OUR FIGHT!
GET HOLD'A YERSELF, KID! HE'S ALREADY GONE!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ANYWAY? YA AIN'T NEVER ACTED LIKE THIS BEFORE?!
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO REED...OUR REED... I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT MY OWN MORTALITY!
I JUST DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DO THIS HERO THING ANYMORE!
THE TRUTH IS... I'M AFRAID TO DIE.
WELCOME TO THE CLUB, LITTLE BROTHER!

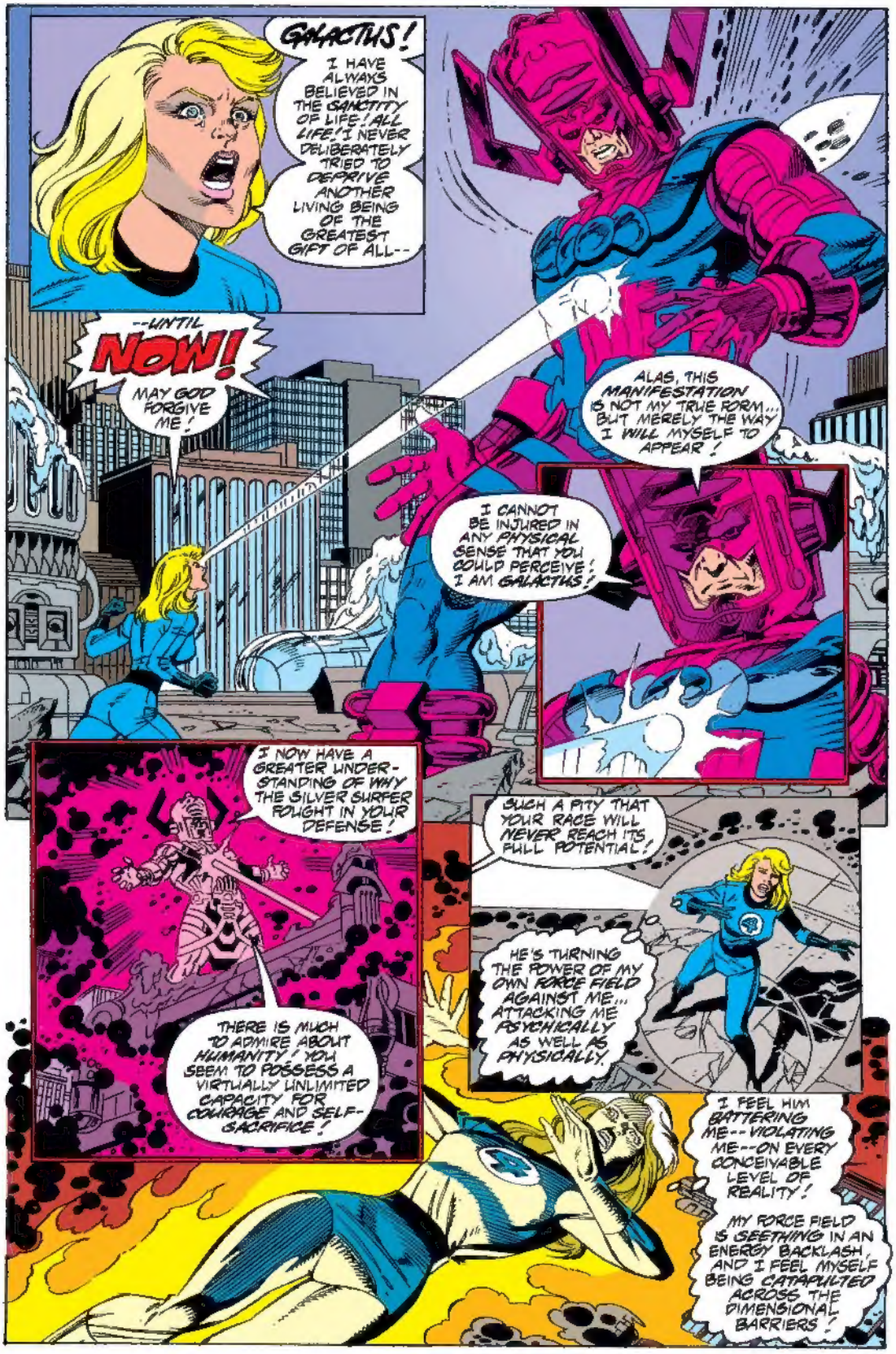

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, SUZIE? WHY'D YA CHANGE INTO THAT OLD COSTUME?
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE! MY OTHER OUTFIT WAS SHREDDED IN THE BLAST!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE TEMPTING FATE?!
THAT'S WHAT YOUR BURNING IMAGE WORE WHEN SHE PREDICTED OUR DEATHS!
MAYBE SO, BUT WE'VE BEEN SPITTING IN FATE'S EYE EVER SINCE WE FIRST BANDED TOGETHER...
...FOR A LITTLE JOY RIDE INTO SPACE!
WHAT'S THIS--?!
A BLAST FROM THE PAST!
IF THIS REALLY IS OUR LAST HURRAH, LET'S GO OUT THE WAY WE BEGAN!
THIS MAY NOT BE OUR WORLD...BUT THE PEOPLE HERE ARE DEPENDING ON US JUST THE SAME!
LET'S SELL OUR LIVES AS DEARLY AS POSSIBLE!
WHY NOT? WE'VE ALREADY HAD ONE HECK OF A RUN, FAR LONGER THAN ANY OF US EVER IMAGINED!
YOU TWO ARE OUT OF YOUR EVER-LOVING MINDS!
BUT THEN... SO AM I!
I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR...
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE LAST TIME FOR ME!
DEAL! YOUR RESIGNATION WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS SOON AS WE RETURN HOME!
ENOUGH OLE CHITCHAT! WE GOT A JOB TO DO!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!


NO!
YOU'RE ONLY THROWING YOUR LIVES AWAY! IT IS SUICIDE TO CONTINUE!
UH, WE HEAR YOU, LYJA... BUT THAT LEAVES US IN A RATHER AWKWARD POSITION!
WE'LL ALL BE DRUMMED OUT OF THE SUPER HERO UNION IF WE DON'T AT LEAST TRY TO STOP THIS MONSTER!
THE AVENGING SON CAN DO FAR MORE THAN TRY, ANT MAN!
PERHAPS YOU DO POSSESS THE NECESSARY STRENGTH TO DEFEAT THE SHA'BARRI!
BUT THIS IS PERSONAL!
PA'BOK USED MY BODY AS THE VESSEL FOR HIS VENGEANCE!
HE CAUGHT ME AT A MOST VULNERABLE TIME, EXPLOITING MY TUMULTUOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HUMAN TORCH!
HE IMPLANTED THAT CREATURE WITHIN ME TO KILL THE FANTASTIC FOUR... AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY I CAN REDEEM MYSELF!
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE SHAPE-SHIFTING SKRULL LAUNCHES HERSELF FORWARD--!
THAT WHICH FOLLOWS IS LESS A BATTLE... THAN AN ORGY OF FURY AND GORE!
HORRIFYING IN ITS UTTER SAVAGERY, THOSE PRESENT CANNOT AVERT THEIR EYES!
NOR WILL THEIR DREAMS EVER BE TRULY CLEANSED OF THIS GRUESOME SPECTACLE.


HURRY, BEN! TIME IS RUNNING OUT! GALACTUS HAS ALMOST COMPLETED HIS ENERGY CONVERTER!
NO NEED TO WORRY, SUZE... I'M WATCHIN' THE CLOCK!
I GOT MY HEART SET ON WRAPPIN' THIS EARLY... SO I CAN CATCH A FEW OLD SITCOMS BEFORE WE RETURN TA THE PRESENT!
SAVES ME FROM SEEING 'EM ON THE BIG SCREEN!
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT EVEN BEN COULD BE SO FLIP WITH ALL THAT IS AT STAKE! THE ODDS ARE SO STACKED AGAINST US THAT-- WHOA!
GALACTUS IS SUDDENLY TURNING TOWARD HIM!
OUR PLAN WORKED--! I HAVE A CLEAR SHOT AT IT!
SCORE ONE FOR THE HOME TEAM!
IMPUDENT EARTH GNAT! I CAN RESTORE IT WITHIN MINUTES!
BE MY GUEST! THIS IS MORE FUN THAN ROASTING HOT DOGS ANY DAY!
CAREFUL WHERE YOU FIRE THOSE EYE BEAMS, MISTER!
YOU MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY STRIKE SOME INNOCENT TRAFFIC 'COPTER!
WHILE THE LOSS OF ANY LIFE IS REGRETTABLE, THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR ME TO RID MYSELF OF YOU ANNOYING INSECTS!
BEN! JOHNNY'S FLYING AT TOP SPEED-- BUT GALACTUS IS ZEROING IN ON HIM AS IF HE WERE STANDING STILL!
DON'T SWEAT IT, LADY! SAVING MY LI'L BUDDY FROM BIG BAD VILLAINS IS PRACTICALLY MY SPECIALTY!


IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT A CHANCE TO STRUT MY STUFF WITH A LITTLE CONSTRUCTIVE PULVERIZIN'!
A FEW WELL-PLACED SHOTS OUGHTA ROCK THAT KING-SIZED CRUMB FROM THE TOP'A HIS HEAD TO HIS BIG OL' BOOTIES!
THERE! I MANAGED TO CREATE A SHOCK WAVE WHICH COL-LAPSED THE ENTIRE SECTION OF ROOF BENEATH HIM!
MY POWER IS INFINITELY GREATER THAN YOUR INFINITESIMAL MIND COULD EVER POSSIBLY GRASP, HUMAN!
WITH THE MEREST THOUGHT I CAN NULLIFY GRAVITY'S CLAIM TO ME!
AND THAT IS NOT ALL I CAN NEGATE--!
HEY! WHAT GIVES--?! I THOUGHT YOU WUS PLANNIN' TA BLAST ME! UGNH! BUT IT FEELS LIKE YER DRAWIN' SUMTHIN' OUTTA ME, INSTEAD!
OH, NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENIN'! NOT NOW!
I...I'M HUMAN AGAIN!
YOU CHEATED!
YA CHANGED ME BACK INTA PLAIN OL' BEN GRIMM!


BACK AWAY, BEN! THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR FIGHT! JOHNNY AND I WILL RUN INTERFERENCE WHILE YOU FIND COVER!
FORGET IT SUZIE! I AIN'T TURNIN' TAIL!
I STARTED THIS BATTLE AN' I AIM TA FINISH IT!
I MIGHTA LOST THE THING'S STRENGTH, BUT I STILL GOT MY PRIDE!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TA BEAT THIS BUM... AND WE AIN'T GONNA FIND IT BY RUNNIN' OFF!
NO, BEN! NO! YOU MUSTN'T SACRIFICE YOURSELF!
SAVE YER SYMPATHY FER GALACTUS! HE'S ABOUT TA GET A STABBING PAIN RIGHT UP HIS--
ARRGH!
YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED YOUR COMPANION'S WARNING, HUMAN!
IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO HARM ANY LIVING CREATURE, BUT I MUST CLAIM THE PRECIOUS ENERGY WHICH IS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN ME!
BEN! OH, GOD! BEN!
SUE! COVER YOURSELF WITH AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE!
I'M GOING NOVA!
THOUSANDS MAY DIE IN THE RESULTING FIRESTORM... BUT I GOTTA TAKE OUT THIS MURDERING CREEP... OR MANKIND IS FINISHED!
YOUR POWER IS FAR DEADLIER THAN I EVER SUSPECTED, MORTAL--
EYIII!!
--BUT IT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MINE!


GALACTUS!
I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE SANCTITY OF LIFE! ALL LIFE! I NEVER DELIBERATELY TRIED TO DEPRIVE ANOTHER LIVING BEING OF THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL--
--UNTIL NOW!
MAY GOD FORGIVE ME!
ALAS, THIS MANIFESTATION IS NOT MY TRUE FORM... BUT MERELY THE WAY I WILL MYSELF TO APPEAR!
I CANNOT BE INJURED IN ANY PHYSICAL SENSE THAT YOU COULD PERCEIVE! I AM GALACTUS!
I NOW HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE SILVER SURFER FOUGHT IN YOUR DEFENSE!
THERE IS MUCH TO ADMIRE ABOUT HUMANITY! YOU SEEM TO POSSESS A VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED CAPACITY FOR COURAGE AND SELF-SACRIFICE!
SUCH A PITY THAT YOUR RACE WILL NEVER REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL!
HE'S TURNING THE POWER OF MY OWN FORCE FIELD AGAINST ME... ATTACKING ME PSYCHICALLY AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY.
I FEEL HIM BATTERING ME--VIOLATING ME--ON EVERY CONCEIVABLE LEVEL OF REALITY!
MY FORCE FIELD IS SEETHING IN AN ENERGY BACKLASH, AND I FEEL MYSELF BEING CATAPULTED ACROSS THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS!


AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, BACK IN THE TRUE PRESENT...
LYJA...
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
I HAVE AVENGED MYSELF... AND THE HONOR OF THE CHILD JOHNNY AND I MIGHT YET CONCEIVE!
UHNN!
THE BATTLE IS OVER, WARRIOR'! YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR REST!
AFTER ALL SHE WENT THROUGH... DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
HER PHYSICAL WOUNDS WILL SURELY HEAL, BUT SHE FACED THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF HERSELF ON THIS DAY.
WHO CAN SAY WHAT PERMANENT EFFECT SUCH AN ENCOUNTER COULD HAVE ON HER MIND?!
BEN! JOHNNY! I... I SAW THEM... DIE!
THEY'RE BOTH DEAD!
THE FLAMING APPARITION OF SUSAN HAS RETURNED... BUT WHY?!
AND, NOT FAR AWAY...
WHY, FRANKLIN? WHY HAVE WE RETURNED TO THE PARTICULAR POINT IN TIME AND SPACE?
TRUST ME, HUNTARA! I SENSE THAT OUR TRUE DESTINY IS HERE!
THE DARK RIDER WILL SOON MANIFEST HIMSELF, AND WE MUST PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
AAARK!
THE HATED HOUND SCARS MATERIALIZE UPON YOUR FACE--!
WHAT IS THE GREAT DANGER THAT YOU SENSE NEPHEW?
WHAT IS WRONG?
I-IT WAS MY MOTHER... FOR AN ALL TOO BRIEF INSTANT... OUR PSYCHES TOUCHED... AND THEN... I... I...


"I FELT HER DIE IN MY MIND!"
"THEY'RE DEAD, HUNTARA!"
"DON'T ASK ME HOW I CAN SENSE THAT ON SOME DISTANT PLANE... THE FANTASTIC FOUR FIGHT NO MORE!"
TO BE CONTINUED--!